CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). A switching device, comprising:

a first and a second arcing contact piece, lying axially opposite one another;

a first and a second rated current contact piece, disposed coaxially with respect to said arcing contact pieces, at least one of said rated current contact pieces having a hollow-cylindrical basic body formed with a substantially continuous outer circumferential wall having a front end ~~facing a switching path of the switching device~~;

an arc-resistant material covering said front end, said arc-resistant material having an electroplated surface; and

contact-making points disposed between said first and second rated current contact pieces and lying axially in a region of said electroplated surface in a switched-on state of the switching device;

said electroplated surface making initial contact with said contact-making points and making contact with said contact-making points in the switched-on state of the switching device and

wherein said arc-resistant material is made of a plurality of different metals, and said arc-resistant material is fixed to said hollow-cylindrical basic body in a form of a ring so as to cover said front end of said circumferential wall of said hollow-cylindrical basic body.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended). The switching device according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 9, wherein said ring has a smaller radial wall thickness at a further end facing away from said switching path than at ~~said~~ an end facing said switching path.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The switching device according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 9, further comprising a bolt connection, said ring being pressed against said hollow-cylindrical basic body in a axial direction by said bolt connection.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The switching device according to claim 9,

further comprising an insulating body;

further comprising a pressure element; and

wherein said hollow-cylindrical basic body has a radial projection, against which said insulating body, is pressed axially by said pressure element.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The switching device according to claim 13, wherein said circumferential wall of said hollow-cylindrical basic body has an inner casing side and a reduced outer diameter at said front end facing said switching path, said radial projection is disposed on said inner casing side in a region of said reduced outer diameter.

Claim 15 (previously presented). The switching device according to claim 11, wherein said ring has an enlarged radial wall thickness region and fixing devices in a region of said enlarged radial wall thickness region.

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented). The switching device according to claim 13, wherein said insulating body is an insulating material nozzle.

Claim 18 (previously presented). The switching device according to claim 13, wherein said plurality of different metals of said arc-resistant material form a

surface, and said electroplated surface is electroplated directly on said surface formed by said plurality of different metals of said arc-resistant material.

Claim 19 (previously presented). ~~The switching device according to claim 9, further comprising:~~

A switching device, comprising:

a first and a second arcing contact piece, lying axially opposite one another;

a first and a second rated current contact piece, disposed coaxially with respect to said arcing contact pieces, at least one of said rated current contact pieces having a hollow-cylindrical basic body formed with a substantially continuous outer circumferential wall having a front end;

an arc-resistant material covering said front end, said arc-resistant material having an electroplated surface;

contact-making points disposed between said first and second rated current contact pieces and lying axially in a region of said electroplated surface in a switched-on state of the switching device; and

a ring attached to said front end of said circumferential wall of said hollow-cylindrical basic body;

said ring made of said arc-resistant material;

said electroplated surface making initial contact with said contact-making points and making contact with said contact-making points in the switched-on state of the switching device and

wherein said arc-resistant material is made of a plurality of different metals.